

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

According to the Advisory Action mailed September 8, 2005, Applicants' amendments mailed August 18, 2005, were not entered by the Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO"). Therefore, the pending claims revert to their status prior to the Applicants' August 18, 2005, amendment, with Claims 2-16, 18-23, and 25-29 pending, all of which stand rejected.

Claims 6, 8, 22, 26, and 29 are currently amended and new Claims 30-31 are presented. Claims 27-28 are cancelled herein. Therefore with this amendment, Claims 2-16, 18-23, 25, 26, and 29-31 are currently pending and under examination.

Support for the amendments to the claims and support for the new claims can be found as follows. Support for the amendment to Claim 6 is found in Claim 27 that is cancelled herein. Claims 8 and 22 are amended to address clerical issues and/or to more closely conform these claims to U.S. patent practice. Claim 26 is amended to incorporate the features of Claim 29, therefore support for this amendment is found in Claim 29. Support for the amendment to Claim 29 can be found at least on page 7 of the specification. Claims 30 and 31 constitute the subject matter of cancelled Claims 27 and 28 and are rewritten to depend from Claim 29.

Telephonic Interview with Patent Examiner

On July 11, 2005, Applicants' undersigned representative conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Cole, regarding the final Office Action dated June 21, 2005. Claim 29 is amended on the basis of the telephonic interview to recite a cover layer consisting of the provided elements. Applicants' representative thanks Examiner Cole for the helpful discussion and suggestions.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the June 21, 2005 Office Action, the Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") maintained the previous rejection of Claims 2-16, 18-23, and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). According to the PTO, these claims are unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,747,133 to *Vinod, et al.* ("*Vinod*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,932,337 to *Edinger, et al.* ("*Edinger*"), as set forth in the Office Action dated October 13, 2004. In view of the amendment to Claim 29, Applicants maintain that the rejection of Claims 2-16, 18-23, and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been obviated.

Respectfully, Applicants maintain that *Vinod* and *Edinger*, either alone or in combination, do not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness, and even if combined, do not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention, for the reasons of record, including the reasons stated in the Amendment and Response mailed August 18, 2005.

However, in an effort to further the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended Claim 29 to recite a cover layer consisting of the provided elements. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute original claims in this application in a continuing application.

Respectfully, Applicants maintain that the amendment to Claim 29 have obviated this rejection, and request this rejection be withdrawn and these claims allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe this Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 places the claims in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Applicants reserve the right to subsequently take up prosecution of the claims originally filed in this application in continuation, continuation-in-part, and/or divisional applications.

No additional fees are believed due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 09-0528, referencing matter number 41461.0012.6.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes any informalities remain in the application that can be resolved by telephone interview, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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